## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for producing an <u>a linear</u> internal olefin, eharacterized in that comprising:

contacting an  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 50 ppm water or less according to the Karl Fischer test method is contacted with a zeolite catalyst and/or a montmorillonite catalyst for the isomerization thereof to isomerize the  $\alpha$ -olefin and obtain the linear internal olefin;

wherein:

the  $\alpha$ -olefin contains 50 ppm water or less according to the Karl Fischer test method; and

contacting the  $\alpha$ -olefin with the zeolite catalyst and/or the montmorillonite is catalyst comprises contacting at a reaction temperature of from 140 to 180°C.

Claim 2 (Original): The method for producing an internal olefin as recited in claim 1, wherein the  $\alpha$ -olefin has 8 to 24 carbon atoms.

Claim 3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method for producing an internal olefin as recited in any one of claims 1 to 3 claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the  $\alpha$ -olefin is dehydrated by distillation or a drying agent.